

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

Western District of Pennsylvania

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

THIEN PHUC TRAN

JUDGMENT IN A CRIMINAL CASE

Case Number: 2:22-cr-115-1

USM Number: 00768-51

Christopher Capozzi

Defendant's Attorney

THE DEFENDANT:☒ pleaded guilty to count(s) 2 of the Indictment☐ pleaded nolo contendere to count(s) _____
which was accepted by the court.☐ was found guilty on count(s) _____
after a plea of not guilty.

The defendant is adjudicated guilty of these offenses:

<u>Title & Section</u>	<u>Nature of Offense</u>	<u>Offense Ended</u>	<u>Count</u>
18 U.S.C. 1956(h)	MONEY LAUNDERING CONSPIRACY	12/31/2021	2

The defendant is sentenced as provided in pages 2 through 9 of this judgment. The sentence is imposed pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984.

☐ The defendant has been found not guilty on count(s) _____☒ Count(s) 1 ☒ is ☐ are dismissed on the motion of the United States.

It is ordered that the defendant must notify the United States attorney for this district within 30 days of any change of name, residence, or mailing address until all fines, restitution, costs, and special assessments imposed by this judgment are fully paid. If ordered to pay restitution, the defendant must notify the court and United States attorney of material changes in economic circumstances.

1/24/2024

Date of Imposition of Judgment

s/ J. Nicholas Ranjan

Signature of Judge

United States District Judge

Name and Title of Judge

1/24/2024

Date

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IMPRISONMENT

The defendant is hereby committed to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a total term of:
EIGHTY-SEVEN (87) MONTHS.

☒ The court makes the following recommendations to the Bureau of Prisons:
Defendant be placed at a facility as close to Sana Ana, CA, as possible, as his family resides in this area.

☐ The defendant is remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal.

☐ The defendant shall surrender to the United States Marshal for this district:

☐ at _____ ☐ a.m. ☐ p.m. on _____ .

☐ as notified by the United States Marshal.

☒ The defendant shall surrender for service of sentence at the institution designated by the Bureau of Prisons:

☒ before 2 p.m. on 3/11/2024 .

☐ as notified by the United States Marshal.

☐ as notified by the Probation or Pretrial Services Office.

RETURN

I have executed this judgment as follows:

Defendant delivered on _____ to _____
at _____ , with a certified copy of this judgment.

UNITED STATES MARSHAL

By _____
DEPUTY UNITED STATES MARSHAL

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SUPERVISED RELEASE

Upon release from imprisonment, you will be on supervised release for a term of:

THREE (3) YEARS.

MANDATORY CONDITIONS

1. You must not commit another federal, state or local crime.
2. You must not unlawfully possess a controlled substance.
3. You must refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance. You must submit to one drug test within 15 days of release from imprisonment and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter, as determined by the court.
 - ☒ The above drug testing condition is suspended, based on the court's determination that you pose a low risk of future substance abuse. *(check if applicable)*
4. ☒ You must make restitution in accordance with 18 U.S.C. §§ 3663 and 3663A or any other statute authorizing a sentence of restitution. *(check if applicable)*
5. ☒ You must cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by the probation officer. *(check if applicable)*
6. ☐ You must comply with the requirements of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (34 U.S.C. § 20901, *et seq.*) as directed by the probation officer, the Bureau of Prisons, or any state sex offender registration agency in the location where you reside, work, are a student, or were convicted of a qualifying offense. *(check if applicable)*
7. ☐ You must participate in an approved program for domestic violence. *(check if applicable)*

You must comply with the standard conditions that have been adopted by this court as well as with any other conditions on the attached page.

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STANDARD CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

As part of your supervised release, you must comply with the following standard conditions of supervision. These conditions are imposed because they establish the basic expectations for your behavior while on supervision and identify the minimum tools needed by probation officers to keep informed, report to the court about, and bring about improvements in your conduct and condition.

1. You must report to the probation office in the federal judicial district where you are authorized to reside within 72 hours of your release from imprisonment, unless the probation officer instructs you to report to a different probation office or within a different time frame.
2. After initially reporting to the probation office, you will receive instructions from the court or the probation officer about how and when you must report to the probation officer, and you must report to the probation officer as instructed.
3. You must not knowingly leave the federal judicial district where you are authorized to reside without first getting permission from the court or the probation officer.
4. You must answer truthfully the questions asked by your probation officer.
5. You must live at a place approved by the probation officer. If you plan to change where you live or anything about your living arrangements (such as the people you live with), you must notify the probation officer at least 10 days before the change. If notifying the probation officer in advance is not possible due to unanticipated circumstances, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours of becoming aware of a change or expected change.
6. You must allow the probation officer to visit you at any time at your home or elsewhere, and you must permit the probation officer to take any items prohibited by the conditions of your supervision that he or she observes in plain view.
7. You must work full time (at least 30 hours per week) at a lawful type of employment, unless the probation officer excuses you from doing so. If you do not have full-time employment you must try to find full-time employment, unless the probation officer excuses you from doing so. If you plan to change where you work or anything about your work (such as your position or your job responsibilities), you must notify the probation officer at least 10 days before the change. If notifying the probation officer at least 10 days in advance is not possible due to unanticipated circumstances, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours of becoming aware of a change or expected change.
8. You must not communicate or interact with someone you know is engaged in criminal activity. If you know someone has been convicted of a felony, you must not knowingly communicate or interact with that person without first getting the permission of the probation officer.
9. If you are arrested or questioned by a law enforcement officer, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours.
10. You must not own, possess, or have access to a firearm, ammunition, destructive device, or dangerous weapon (i.e., anything that was designed, or was modified for, the specific purpose of causing bodily injury or death to another person such as nunchakus or tasers).
11. You must not act or make any agreement with a law enforcement agency to act as a confidential human source or informant without first getting the permission of the court.
12. If the probation officer determines that you pose a risk to another person (including an organization), the probation officer may require you to notify the person about the risk and you must comply with that instruction. The probation officer may contact the person and confirm that you have notified the person about the risk.
13. You must follow the instructions of the probation officer related to the conditions of supervision.

U.S. Probation Office Use Only

A U.S. probation officer has instructed me on the conditions specified by the court and has provided me with a written copy of this judgment containing these conditions. For further information regarding these conditions, see *Overview of Probation and Supervised Release Conditions*, available at: www.uscourts.gov.

Defendant's Signature _____

Date _____

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ADDITIONAL SUPERVISED RELEASE TERMS

1. You must provide the probation officer with access to any requested financial information and authorize the release of any financial information. The probation office may share financial information with the U.S. Attorney's Office.
2. You must not incur new credit charges, or open additional lines of credit without the approval of the probation officer.
3. If the judgment imposes a financial penalty, you must pay the financial penalty in accordance with the Schedule of Payments sheet of this judgment. You must also notify the court of any changes in economic circumstances that might affect the ability to pay this financial penalty.
4. You must be employed and complete community service for a combination of 30 hours per week. The probation officer will supervise the participation in the community service program by approving the program (agency, location, frequency of participation, etc.). You must provide written verification of completed community service hours to the probation officer.

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The defendant must pay the total criminal monetary penalties under the schedule of payments on Sheet 6.

	<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Restitution</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>AVAA Assessment*</u>	<u>JVTA Assessment**</u>
TOTALS	\$ 100.00	\$ 4,247,973.23	\$	\$	\$

☐ The determination of restitution is deferred until _____. An *Amended Judgment in a Criminal Case (AO 245C)* will be entered after such determination.

☒ The defendant must make restitution (including community restitution) to the following payees in the amount listed below.

If the defendant makes a partial payment, each payee shall receive an approximately proportioned payment, unless specified otherwise in the priority order or percentage payment column below. However, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3664(i), all nonfederal victims must be paid before the United States is paid.

<u>Name of Payee</u>	<u>Total Loss***</u>	<u>Restitution Ordered</u>	<u>Priority or Percentage</u>
C.S.*	\$1,288,073.00	\$1,288,073.00	
J.K.*	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	
J.V.*	\$950,000.00	\$950,000.00	
M.L.*	\$52,000.00	\$52,000.00	
D.B.*	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	
M.D.*	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	
D.D.N.*	\$85,000.00	\$85,000.00	
N.R.*	\$15,362.16	\$15,362.16	
J.L.S.*	\$22,600.00	\$22,600.00	

[continued on p. 7]

TOTALS	\$	2,796,695.16	\$	2,796,695.16
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☒ Restitution amount ordered pursuant to plea agreement \$ 4,247,973.23

☐ The defendant must pay interest on restitution and a fine of more than \$2,500, unless the restitution or fine is paid in full before the fifteenth day after the date of the judgment, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(f). All of the payment options on Sheet 6 may be subject to penalties for delinquency and default, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(g).

☒ The court determined that the defendant does not have the ability to pay interest and it is ordered that:

☒ the interest requirement is waived for the ☐ fine ☒ restitution.

☐ the interest requirement for the ☐ fine ☐ restitution is modified as follows:

* Amy, Vicky, and Andy Child Pornography Victim Assistance Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-299.

** Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-22.

*** Findings for the total amount of losses are required under Chapters 109A, 110, 110A, and 113A of Title 18 for offenses committed on or after September 13, 1994, but before April 23, 1996.

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ADDITIONAL RESTITUTION PAYEES

<u>Name of Payee</u>	<u>Total Loss*</u>	<u>Restitution Ordered</u>	<u>Priority or Percentage</u>
S.C.*	\$7,150.00	\$7,150.00	
V.V.D.*	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	
C.S. & R.S.*	\$4,891.00	\$4,891.00	
E.M.L.*	\$47,700.00	\$47,700.00	
C.R.J.*	\$9,886.00	\$9,886.00	
L.S.K.*	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	
W.A.D.*	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	
A.L.F. & D.L.F.*	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	
S.F.D.*	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	
D.C.F.*	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	
A.P.*	\$9,233.00	\$9,233.00	
P.L.W.*	\$19,700.00	\$19,700.00	
H.H.K. Trust*	\$34,600.00	\$34,600.00	

*Confidential names and addresses of restitution
payees on file at the Clerk's office

* Findings for the total amount of losses are required under Chapters 109A, 110, 110A, and 113A of Title 18 for offenses committed on or after September 13, 1994, but before April 23, 1996.

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SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Having assessed the defendant's ability to pay, payment of the total criminal monetary penalties is due as follows:

- A** ☐ Lump sum payment of \$ _____ due immediately, balance due
- ☐ not later than _____, or
- ☐ in accordance with ☐ C, ☐ D, ☐ E, or ☐ F below; or
- B** ☐ Payment to begin immediately (may be combined with ☐ C, ☐ D, or ☐ F below); or
- C** ☐ Payment in equal _____ (e.g., weekly, monthly, quarterly) installments of \$ _____ over a period of _____ (e.g., months or years), to commence _____ (e.g., 30 or 60 days) after the date of this judgment; or
- D** ☐ Payment in equal _____ (e.g., weekly, monthly, quarterly) installments of \$ _____ over a period of _____ (e.g., months or years), to commence _____ (e.g., 30 or 60 days) after release from imprisonment to a term of supervision; or
- E** ☐ Payment during the term of supervised release will commence within _____ (e.g., 30 or 60 days) after release from imprisonment. The court will set the payment plan based on an assessment of the defendant's ability to pay at that time; or
- F** ☒ Special instructions regarding the payment of criminal monetary penalties:
The defendant shall pay restitution that is imposed by this judgment that remains unpaid at the commencement of the term of supervised release at a rate of at least 10 percent of his gross monthly earnings. The first payment shall be due within 30 days from the defendant's release from imprisonment.

Unless the court has expressly ordered otherwise, if this judgment imposes imprisonment, payment of criminal monetary penalties is due during the period of imprisonment. All criminal monetary penalties, except those payments made through the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program, are made to the clerk of the court.

The defendant shall receive credit for all payments previously made toward any criminal monetary penalties imposed.

☐ Joint and Several

Case Number Defendant and Co-Defendant Names (including defendant number)	Total Amount	Joint and Several Amount	Corresponding Payee, if appropriate
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☐ The defendant shall pay the cost of prosecution.

☐ The defendant shall pay the following court cost(s):

☒ The defendant shall forfeit the defendant's interest in the following property to the United States:
All Ethereum (ETH) and Bitcoin (BTC) maintained in or on behalf of Account ID ending in 0564 at cryptocurrency exchange Binance; [continued on p. 9]

Payments shall be applied in the following order: (1) assessment, (2) restitution principal, (3) restitution interest, (4) AVAA assessment, (5) fine principal, (6) fine interest, (7) community restitution, (8) JVT assessment, (9) penalties, and (10) costs, including cost of prosecution and court costs.

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ADDITIONAL FORFEITED PROPERTY

- Thien Phuc Tran's interest in the real property known and numbered as 13321 Hale Avenue, Garden Grove, California 92844, Parcel No. 097-356-24, Orange County, titled to Tien Thi My Bui further described at asset identification number 23-FBI-006135;
- 2017 Toyota Sienna, VIN 5TDYZ3DC3HS898357, CA Tag: 8AZS363, registered to Thien Phuc Tran;
- Any interest in \$133,975 in United States currency seized from Ton Huynh Bui, further described at asset identification number 22-FBI-004829;
- Any interest in miscellaneous gold bars and coins seized from Ton Huynh Bui, including nine "Vietnam" Jean's Fine Jewelry 31.7 Gr Gold Bars; 5 G Fine Gold (QR Code) #ZAUFS00079; "Suisse" Ounce .999.9 Pure Bars #CA811298; "Suisse" Ounce .999.9 Pure Bars #140253; "Suisse" Ounce .999.9 Pure Bars #138950; "Suisse" Ounce .999.9 Pure Bars #140303; "Suisse" Ounce .999.9 Pure Bars #139106; "Suisse" Ounce .999.9 Pure Bars #A314898; "Suisse" Ounce .999.9 Pure Bars #138951; and "APMEX" Ounce .999.9 Pure Bars #60162, all of which are further described at asset identification number 22-FBI-004955;
- Any interest in miscellaneous jewelry seized from Rita Huang, including Van Cleef & Arpels "Clover" necklace made of Tiger Eye with light weight chain; Hetian green sculpted jade "PIG" necklace on black cord; and 30" chain with triangular clay pendant, all of which are further described at asset identification number 22-FBI-004957;
- Any interest in \$11,042 in United States currency, seized from Rita Huang, further described at asset identification number 22-FBI-004956;
- All gift cards and prepaid debit cards seized as part of the investigation of the defendants and their associates, including, but not limited to, the following cards seized from the defendants' residences: eighty (80) Green Dot Prepaid, Go2 Bank Prepaid, and Walmart Money/Gift Cards, all of which are controlled by Green Dot; one (1) Paypal Prepaid Debit Card; two (2) Playstation Store Gift Cards; fifteen (15) Target Gift Cards; two (2) American Express Prepaid Cards; three (3) eBay Gift Cards; and one (1) Visa Vanilla Prepaid Card, all of which are further described at asset identification number 23-FBI-005451; and
- All cash received during the course of the conspiracy.